

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLPAC Meeting with WG&E and TriWire
March 23, 2021 at 2 pm

Present: MLPAC: Art Schwenger, Jan Carr, Anne Emmet, Paul Dabrody, and Ned Wolf
MLP Manager, Sheila Litchfield
WG&E: Joe Parda, Tom Kolek, Dave Loiko, Teah Dempsey, and Caitrin Ferriter
TriWire: Jordan Hawes, Dave Poplawski, and Dave Libbey

Jordan reported their having put 2 of 4 ftp channels at the Community Hall and the Post Office. There are 2 more to be put at the highway/fire garage and the former school. Joe asked that Dave Libbey follow up with splicing. Dave said that once the 2 additional channels are in place they'll do the splicing and testing. They'll have it done by next week.

Jordan said that he plans to get the rest of the backbone done in FSA 3, that there's plenty of fiber up there, and they've got 17 MST's up there. He said that when FSA 4 is dry, they'll go in there. Paul cautioned that he has recently seen wetness conditions in that area.

Joe asked whether Jordan is still aiming for April 24 as the completion date for TriWire's testing in FSA 1. Jordan said that they were doing unidirectionals in FSA 1 on March 23 and still had 13 MST's to install.

Joe told Art that in FSA 2 the week of April 5th still looks good for Alpha – Beta testing, friendly customers, and a soft launch. He said that probably in the week after April 5th the town buildings in Heath Center could be lit up. Joe said that in some towns their municipals are lit with an ONT just as for the residents. Another option is that he and Sheila host part of a call, say 15 minutes, with Northeast IT to discuss how Heath's municipal buildings might be connected to the network. Joe and Sheila will plan for that.

The people from TriWire left the call at 2:30.

Caitrin said she can't locate the list of friendly customers for FSA 2. The town chooses friendly customers. Sheila said that she will send the list. Beginning the week of April 5th there will be Alpha – Beta testing and a review of everything in FSA 2.

Art asked when underground work resumes. Caitrin said 3 weeks from yesterday. Joe said that another PODS will be needed in Heath. He asked for the number of signups in FSA 2. Caitrin said 92. Joe said that each technician can install 2 drops a day. He said that the installation of the drops in FSA 2 could be done by 5 technicians doing 10 drops a day over a span of 2 weeks.

Joe turned to the discussion of Bassett Road and a resident in Charlemont whose house is far off the road. Sheila said she understands that Charlemont will reimburse Heath per our earlier agreement. She said she could be available for a 4 o'clock phone call with Joe and a representative from Charlemont. Among the things to be resolved are that the house has electricity and that Charlemont secures a 911 number for the house. Pole attachment fees will also be part of the discussion. Joe told Sheila he would reach out to Bob Handsaker following the meeting.

Joe said that WG&E has checked with its vendor about the costing for hardened ONT's at Mohawk Estates. He said that they would still like to put the router into a trailer. They will have more information next week. Joe said he's thinking that we wait until May for a possible walkthrough. We will think about statements to send the Mohawk Estates Newsletter having deadline April 17.

Sheila discussed marketing options with Caitrin at a time when the rate of subscriptions has slowed. Caitrin suggested door hangers, cards, and a banner as reminders to those who haven't signed up. Jan has 496 as an estimate for the maximum potential number of total signups. So far there are 359 signups. Sheila sked Caitrin whether she has a flyer that includes the Emergency Broadband Benefit. Caitrin said that they are in the early stages and will consult with us later. Art asked that Caitrin please send marketing materials to all MLPAC members.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf